

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 AEC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 201600Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 863

INFO US MISSION NATO 519

USCINCEUR

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 366

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, SP

SUBJ: STATEMENT BY SECDEF REGARDING VULNERABILITY

U.S. BASES

1. MARQUES DE PERINAT, MFA DIRGEN NORTH AMERICAN AND FAR EAST AFFAIRS, INQUIRED ABOUT REMARKS APPARENTLY MADE BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER REPORTED IN JAN 16 OF MADRID DAILY "ABC", THAT U.S. NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASES "OVERSEAS" WERE CONSIDERED LIKELY TARGETS FOR SOVIET NUCLEAR ATTACK IN CASE OF WAR.

2. CHECK OF ARTICLE--WHICH STRAIGHT NEWS DISPATCH DATELINE JAN 15 FROM WASHINGTON--REVEALS NO REFERENCE TO "OVERSEAS" NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASES. PORTION OF INTEREST TO PERINAT QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: "SOVIET UNION COULD DESTROY U.S. STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES WITH A LIMITED NUCLEAR ATTACK WHICH WOULD DISORGANIZE U.S. ECONOMY AND CAUSE NO LESS THAN 6 MILLION VICTIMS. THIS IS WHAT U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES SCHLESINGER DECLARED IN CLOSED SESSION OF ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. WITH AID OF MAPS AND GRAPHS, SCHLESINGER

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PRESENTED TO SENATORS VARIOUS EXAMPLES OF SOVIET NUCLEAR

ATTACK. IN FIRST, HE SPOKE OF SELECTIVE SOVIET NUCLEAR
ATTACK AGAINST BASES OF NUCLEAR MISSILE-ARMED SUBMARINES,
SAC BASES, AND ICBM SILOS. IN ATTACK AGAINST ICBM'S
ONLY, VICTIMS WOULD BE ON ORDER OF ONE MILLION; ON SAC
BASES, MORTALITY WOULD BE ON ARODER OF 500,000."

3. OBVIOUS THAT SPANISH ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF
ROTA WHICH THEY ARE NOT HESITANT TO POINT OUT IS ONE OF
ONLY TWO SUCH NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASES U.S. HAS IN EUROPE;
AND TORREJON, WHICH THEY BELIEVE VULNERABLE BECAUSE OF
PRESENCE OF TANKERS IN SUPPORT SAC MISSIONS.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE CAN ASSURE FOREIGN MINISTRY
OVERSEAS BASES WERE NOT UNDER REFERENCE IN CONTEXT OF
SECDEF'S REMARKS. PLEASE ADVISE, AND FURNISH TEXT, IF
AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

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